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The Times and Seasons of a Nauvoo Newspaper

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In the early days of Illinois statehood, a small city called Nauvoo thrived. The previous swampland was cleared out and the city grew almost as rapidly as the Windy City of Chicago. At that time the Latter-Day Saints, or Mormons, were fleeing persecution in Missouri and sought refuge in the calm state of Illinois. A major contributing factor to this amazing city's growth was its local newspaper, the *Times and Seasons*.

The *Times and Seasons* was first published in November of 1839, edited by Don Carlos Smith, brother to the Latter-Day Saint Prophet Joseph Smith, Jr. Don Carlos Smith was the sole proprietor of the newspaper from December 1840 until his sudden death on August 7, 1841. At this time, his former partner Ebenezer Robinson returned and took over full editorialship. In late 1841, Brigham Young and the Twelve Apostles appointed Willard Richards to replace Robinson. Soon afterward, the Prophet Joseph Smith became chief editor and was assisted by John Taylor. In Robinson's final issue he stated, "all things will go right" under the editorialship and direction of Joseph Smith. Joseph Smith remained editor of the *Times and Seasons* until its third volume when he gave full editorship to the Apostle John Taylor due to the great burden which producing a newspaper carries. Taylor was the final editor of the newspaper, with assistance from Willard Richards. The last issue of the *Times and Seasons* was dated February 15, 1846, shortly after the forced mass exodus of Saints began.

The *Times and Seasons* was one of the two major periodicals of the Mormon Church in its early history. Six volumes were published, all on a moveable type printing press located at the Smith's print shop. Each paper consisted of 16 pages. Issues were released once a month in volume one, whereas in volumes two through six, the issues were released twice a month. It was mentioned in the fifteenth issue, that there were intentions to make this periodical a weekly release:

> Some time ago the publisher of this Journal issued proposals for publishing a weekly newspaper in this City; but from the pressure of the times, and other unfavorable circumstances, it was postponed. However, as the prospect of better times is already brightening, and a considerable accession of strangers are settling in this neighborhood, it is the intention to publish a weekly newspaper at an earlier date and will issue a Prospectus, in the next number of this Journal.

The weekly issue never became a reality, as we can see from the newspaper dates. Publishing became more and more difficult as time went by and persecution of the church increased. Before leaving their beloved city of Nauvoo, a few members of the church helped to bury the printing press to hide it from persecutors.

The pages of the *Times and Seasons* were filled with more than just the news of the city. Printed in these valuable pages were sections on "Doctrine and Covenants," the "Book of Abraham," and the "Pearl of Great Price," all regarded as scripture in the Mormon faith. Because this was the first place of publication of many of today's Mormon Scripture, it is considered to be a first edition of Scriptures as well as historical newspapers. The Prophet and Apostles also wrote articles concerning churches doctrine, typically trying to dispel false rumors. Among more common newspaper articles, the *Times and Seasons* printed special notices, Temple announcements, information on the organization of Relief Society, poetry and hymns, news concerning emigration, and

missionary reports from England and Canada. The orders to leave Nauvoo and go West are also included in the *Times and Seasons*.

In a city such as Nauvoo, the *Times and Seasons* played a pivotal role in community communication and unity. It was a central agent in publishing Scripture and organizing the Relief Society, the largest woman's organization in the world. It provided the public with news of church growth and teachings of the Prophet and Apostles. Nauvoo was nearly the size of Chicago, and the fastest growing city in Illinois for its short life. Without the organization that the *Times and Seasons* provided, the city could not have prospered as it did.

Illinois' early population and economic success was in part a result of the Mormon Church's efforts in Nauvoo between 1839 and 1846. Nauvoo thrived for seven years before persecution forced its inhabitants to leave the city and cross the Rocky Mountains into the present day Salt Lake Valley. The *Times and Seasons* was essential in organizing the exodus from Nauvoo, giving directions for each company or departing group. The success and fall of Nauvoo was a reflection of the community's communication system in which the *Times and Seasons* played a vital role. [From "Harp of Nauvoo," <http://www.earlyldshymns.com/HarpOfNAvoo.htm.> (Oct. 22, 2004); *Our Heritage: Brief History of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints*, "Faith in Every Footstep," chapter 6, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. (Oct. 30, 2004); "Times and Seasons," <http://www.mormonism.com/T&S.htm.> (Oct. 22, 2004); *Times and Seasons*, June 1, 1841 and Mar. 15, 1842.]

Ida B. Wells-Barnett

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In 1894, after hearing a black man had been lynched by a mob of whites, Ida B. Wells decided to take action by publishing *A Red Record* about lynching of black Americans. Wells wanted to make people aware of the injustices to blacks. In her book she not only recorded the numbers of lynchings of black Americans, but also an overview of the history of lynching since the Emancipation Proclamation.

Her parents learned as slaves the principles of strength and courage, and passed these characteristics on to their daughter. Ida's parents also taught her to stand up for her beliefs. As a result, Ida, an African American, who grew up in Mississippi, became a woman who wanted to make people aware of how the whites humiliated blacks. In 1884, Wells worked her way through Rust College, Mississippi, and after graduating taught school in Memphis, Tennessee. Four years later, Wells continued her teaching career while attending Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee. On May 4, 1884, Wells bought a train ticket and sat in the "whites only" section. Since Wells refused to ride in the car set aside for African Americans, the "colored car," the conductor threw her off the train as white passengers applauded. However, Wells would not let this incident rest. Soon after, she sued the railroad and won her case, but the Tennessee Supreme Court later overturned the decision. Wells became even more determined to fight against racial injustice.

As a result of the Tennessee Supreme Court decision in 1891, Wells was prohibited from teaching and took a job as an editor for the *Memphis Free Speech*. Because of her articles on lynching, Wells' offices were ransacked and her life was threatened. However, she did not let this deter her from her writing. Two years later, while investigating the lynching of C. J. Miller, in Bardwell, Kentucky, Wells discovered Miller was falsely accused and took the blame for others. With thousands of whites being involved in this lynching, not one was punished.

Knowing there was nothing else to do, Wells returned to her home in Chicago. Before long, she received an invitation from the Brotherhood of Man, inviting her on a lecture tour in Great Britain. She accepted the offer. While there, Wells shared her anti-lynching message with anyone who would listen. Everywhere Well's went, however, she was shunned. At the same time, she began sending her articles to the *Chicago Inter-Ocean* newspaper.

Finally, returning to Illinois, Wells found someone who took her ideas seriously. In 1894 the *Memphis Daily Commercial* and the *Memphis Scinitar* sent copies of her articles to Great Britain. With her stunning articles, Wells influenced many British to begin their own anti-lynching group. That same year, 1894, Wells returned to Chicago.

Within a year, Wells married an African-American rights advocate, Ferdinand L. Barnett, a Chicago lawyer, public official, and a publisher of the *Conservator*, an independent Chicago newspaper. Instead of writing ordinary daily news, Ida wrote about things close to her heart, African-American problems in the community. Later, Ida B. Wells-Barnett became the editor-in-chief of the *Conservator*.

On March 25, 1931, a tragedy struck and Ida was rushed to the hospital. That same day she passed away in Chicago at the age of 69. On February 1, 1990, Ida Bell Wells-Barnett was honored with a stamp as the first black women journalist. Wells-Barnett became known in the United States and throughout the world as a fighter for justice. [From Dennis Brindell Fradin and Judith Bloom Fradin, *Ida B. Wells, Mother of the Civil Rights Movement*; Wade Hudson and Valerie Wilson Wesley, *Book of Black Heroes From A to Z*; Ida B. Wells, "A Passion for Justice," <http://www.library.csi.cuny.edu/dept/history/lavender/wells.html> (Dec. 21, 2004); Jessie Carney Smith, *Blacks First*; Lavon Williams (SHS), "*Summary of Crusade for Justice by Ida B. Wells Barnett*, <http://rs6.loc.gov/ammendment/aap/idawells.html> (Dec. 15, 2004).]

D-Day in the *Chicago Daily Tribune*

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On June 6, 1944, American and British troops stormed beaches and parachuted into France in one of the largest invasions ever. It was one of the most influential events in American, as well as European, history. The attack was the start of a long American campaign in Europe that would eventually lead to an Allied victory over Hitler and the Nazis. An analysis of the *Tribune* revealed two major parts to its influence in Illinois.

One of the first articles published by the *Tribune*, titled "D'Day Reward of Four Years' Faith and Toil" and written on June 6, showed some of the events leading up to the attack. According to the article, in the years preceding this invasion, Allied armies (American, British, and Canadian) learned to cooperate in a series of other battles. Meanwhile, in the background, Allied strategists planned the attacks in secrecy. Many of these attacks were surprise raids that put the Germans on the defensive.

Most of the articles published on June 6 were written by the Associated Press, including one mentioned above. Because the *Tribune* was a morning paper, there was little time for *Tribune* writers to express their opinions. Because it was such surprising news, the June 6 paper may have most influenced Illinoisans. However, many people may not have been able to get a copy. The next papers may have been just as important, and they contained more opinionated columns.

The AP's coverage was very basic, informative, and seemed to be largely objective. The purpose of its articles was to inform people of what was going on. The

main feature on June 6 was titled “Fierce Battle Rages in Normadie, Berlin Says.” The article contained information on what kind of battles were going on, who was fighting, and where the battles were going on. Because the AP coverage was mainly informative and objective, it was not very influential with the citizens of Illinois.

Most opinions came later in the editorial columns. The opinion and editorial columns were written in a very patriotic manner, but were opposed to Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s presidency as evidenced in coverage as well as several subtleties. The headlines were covered by current war news, which was mainly written by the AP. However, the editorial columns had many opinions that both debated and justified the war and other events of the time. Although D-Day was a major issue, some articles discussed other topics such as the current president and the upcoming Republican National Convention in Chicago.

Most of the opinions expressed about D-Day were pro-war. After the attacks on Pearl Harbor, the debates about the war subsided and opinion became more unified. There were, however, still people who disliked the administration and other aspects of the government. And, as always, there were extremists who were always pro- or anti-war.

One of the most interesting articles in the editorial section was an article titled “The Onward March of Nationalism.” Nationalism is a state of mind, which values the health of the country above everything else. The point of the article was to show that nationalism could help a Republican candidate defeat F.D.R in the next presidential election. Most of the article seemed to be slanted against F.D.R.’s presidency. One quotation from that article read “[Mr. Roosevelt] listed himself as unwilling to surrender

any sovereignty, a stand which, of course, is subject to the usual discount of any Rooseveltian campaign promises." This lengthy sentence is critical of Roosevelt.

The articles and editorials are filled with many opinions about F.D.R. One of the main things that was interesting about the articles was the description of the war as either Roosevelt's or Eisenhower's. Many remarks were made about Eisenhower's troops or battles. Comments may have been phrased that way due to dislike of F.D.R. Because they mentioned Eisenhower, not Roosevelt, they may have made people believe that Eisenhower deserved the credit and lowered the image of the president.

In many of the articles, interesting language is used to describe F.D.R. In one article, titled "Allied Invasion up to Schedule, F.D. R. Reports," the reporter summarized an announcement by the president. First, he announced the loses for the day, "Naval losses were two destroyers and one landing ship. . . . Air losses were exceedingly light, amounting to about one percent of forces employed." However, it goes on to say that "Mr. Roosevelt was unable to say whether the percentage referred to men, or aircraft, or both." This minor detail could have been left out, but instead seemed to discount the creditability of the president. This was one of the subtleties used to express dislike of F.D.R.

How does all of this coverage affect the reader of the paper? The *Chicago Daily Tribune* is a widely read source throughout Illinois and the United States. Because of this, it is important to know what kind of opinions the paper was giving in order to understand how it affected Illinois. Most of the early coverage was informative and expressed little or no opinions. However, later articles and editorials reflected opinion. The language

used was largely pro-war, but at the same time seemed to be opposed to Roosevelt's presidency.

The *Chicago Daily Tribune's* coverage of D-Day influenced the people of Illinois a great deal. Although early articles were mainly objective, later editorials were strongly opinionated for the war, yet against the president. Because of its high circulation throughout the state, it significantly impacted Illinois history. However, Franklin Delano Roosevelt would go on to win the next election, despite criticism by the *Tribune*. [From *Chicago Daily Tribune*, June 6, June 7, June 8, and June 10, 1944.]

Journalism or Politics? Early Newspapers in Winnebago County

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In the first half of the nineteenth century, American newspapers were decidedly partisan. This was certainly true in Winnebago County, Illinois.

The first newspaper in Rockford was the *Rock River Express*. It began publication on May 5, 1840, with B. J. Gray as editor. At that time there was a lack of news. With a village of three hundred, there was not much to write about. This newspaper's first purpose was promoting William Henry Harrison in the election of 1840 for the presidency.

When it came to politics, the newspaper was Whig. During the election, the paper followed the campaign extensively, always in favor of the Whig Party. Every issue carried an "advertisement" showing the "Whig nominations for president, W. M. H. Harrison of Ohio for President and John Tyler of Virginia for Vice President." It then went into detail, explaining the importance of the upcoming elections. "To the Whigs; the importance of the contest next Monday should [lead] every Whig to attend and be active at the polls . . . [U]pon the coming election will depend life and death of the future prospects of our country."

Following the election, the newspaper published the percentage of votes among the states. "By last night's mail we had the gratifying news that Louisiana had declared Harrison by a majority."

As the first newspaper, the *Express* led the way for many other

publications. The *Rockford Star* was the second newspaper in Winnebago County. It was founded in the fall of 1840 and owned by Daniel S. Haight, Daniel Howell, and Adam Keith. They created this paper to support the Democratic Party. The editor was Philander Knappen.

The first issue of the paper ran an editorial explaining its goals: "It is no more than right that a political journal asking contenance and patronage of the public for its support should, at the out set in general terms avow its political features. The *Star* will be devoted to the dissemination of the principals of Jefferson, Madison, Jackson, [and] Van Buren."

The *Star* pushed its readers to the polls, like the *Express* had. "Democrats, no matter whether it rains, hails, or snows, be at the polls and be there at least two hours before they open, talk to the Federalists–tell them the truth."

When the Driscoll tragedy occurred, Knappen had only been in Rockford for a little while. This event began when Taylor and David Driscoll killed John Campbell on June 26, 1841. Because the sheriff did not do anything about the situation, the people took matters into their own hands. These "Regulators" wanted justice to be served. "Knappen did not understand the temper of the people; and his strong denunciation of the summary execution of the outlaws aroused intense indignation." Knappen continued to be punished by Rockford. On July 1, the *Star* published two letters after the Driscoll trial. The paper criticized the trial and execution. The community supported the Regulators. After several local citizens broke into the *Star's* office and overturned the press and type, Knappen left town. July 1, 1845 was the last issue of the *Star*.

The *Rockford Pilot* was published briefly, July 22, 1841, to October, 1842. Still, the *Pilot's* career contributed to the Democratic Party. John A. Brown was its editor. After he was defeated for Representative Brown's paper stated on October 30, "The Democrats had sustained a local defeat of their entire ticket. With this number the *Pilot* dies. Its death is a natural and quiet one. No violence from enemies. . . It dies from the want of a proper support."

As the *Express* and *Star* had published political "ads," the *Pilot* also ran Democratic ads, such as, "Democratic nominations for Governor Adam W. Snyder and for Lt. Governor John Moore." The *Pilot* covered many issues of the time and gave news from Washington. "Two bills were introduced by Mr. Young as follows: A bill granting to the state of Illinois as an additional quantity of land to aid in the completion of the Illinois and Michigan Canal; and a bill to amend an act entitled An Act to Appropriate the Proceeds of the Public Lands." In addition the paper strongly criticized the national debt of $17 million and the National Bank.

The *Winnebago Forum* began publication on February 17, 1843, as a Whig paper. The editor was Ambrose Wright. The *Forum* used abandoned equipment that had belonged to the *Rockford Star*. Wright retired from the *Forum,* August 18, 1843, when he sold the paper to Colton. Wright went on to work for many other newspapers, including the *Prairie Farmer, Herald of the Prairie*, and the *Chicago Tribune.*

Colton turned out to be more successful than Wright when it came to managing the *Forum*. In February, 1844, Colton changed the *Winnebago Forum* to the *Rockford Forum.* The *Forum* came to be the most successful newspaper in Rockford in that period, increasing its circulation from two hundred to six hundred.

The *Forum* took the same approach toward politics. It was stated in the first issue: "The paper will be firmly Whig–and that because we believe in the main principles of the Whig party." Unlike the other papers, it did not advertise political candidates. In the *Forum's* first issue, Colton explained the reasons: "We do not place at the head of our columns any candidate for presidency–not because we have no choice of candidate, but because we do not deem it essential." It continued, "The Whigs hold a convention; and we are content to abide that–Till then and afterwards, we trust Henry Clay is our man."

Newspaper journalism claiming to be non-partisan and independent did not emerge in Winnebago County for many decades. Party politics and the news were mostly one and the same. [From Charles A. Church, *History of Rockford and Winnebago County of Illinois*; Hall C. Nelson, ed. *Sinnissippi Saga*; *Rock River Express*, (May 5, May 19, June 30, July 28, 1840 and Aug, 4, 1841); *Rockford Forum*, (Feb. 21, 1844); *Rockford Pilot,*(Jan. 20, Jan. 27, Feb. 3, and Feb. 10, 1842); *Rockford Star*, (Oct. 22, and Oct. 29, 1840); and the Winnebago Forum, (Feb. 21, 1844).]

Elijah Parish Lovejoy

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On November 9, 1802, a gifted child named Elijah Parish Lovejoy was born. He changed the history of journalism in Alton, Illinois, and in America. Growing up with a minister for their father, Elijah and his siblings were taught to believe that it was their duty to help eliminate sin from the world. Never waving in his teachings, Lovejoy grew up to become a man who highly valued the lessons he was taught and used his knowledge to graduate from Waterville College in Maine, a Baptist Institution that held beliefs identical to the Lovejoy family.

After graduating in 1826, Lovejoy decided that he could best serve God by moving west to help others. He settled in St. Louis, Missouri, and started his own private high school. After many successful years as a schoolteacher, Lovejoy resigned to become a partner in publishing the *St. Louis Times*, a political newspaper that supported Henry Clay, a senator from Kentucky who thought slavery was sinful. Along with publishing the *St. Louis Times*, Elijah campaigned for the Missouri and Illinois Tract Society, an organization that aimed to help young people attend church regularly.

In 1832 Reverend David Nelson arrived in St. Louis and managed to persuade Elijah to leave the political newspaper business. After listening to Reverend Nelson's sermons, Lovejoy made the decision to enter the Princeton Theological Seminary. He finished school early, receiving the right to preach from the Presbytery of Philadelphia on April 18, 1833. Before moving west, Elijah was offered several editorial jobs by

Presbyterians in St. Louis. He spent most of his days delivering sermons, but also edited a reform newspaper, the *Observer*.

This newspaper received unkind responses as a result of the remarks in it about the Catholic Church and its beliefs on slavery. Lovejoy, usually quiet on the subject of slavery, began speaking about the issue. Knowing that slaveholders in the South were not about to give up their slaves, Elijah started his own campaign against slavery. As a result of his editorials and anti-slavery views, he and his newspaper were threatened with violence. By the summer of 1835, slaveholders and other Missouri men considered Lovejoy to be a menace. Angry mobs from St. Louis tracked down Lovejoy, but he often escaped. Fearlessly, he wrote editorials about freedom of the press guaranteed to him by the Constitution of the United States.

However, in May 1836, town meetings and violence caused Lovejoy to decide to move across the Mississippi River to Alton into the free state of Illinois. The citizens of Alton welcomed Lovejoy and the *Observer* with open arms because they believed that a religious newspaper would help the city's reputation. Knowing that Lovejoy was a controversial figure in St. Louis, the people of Alton made him promise that his presence would not be a problem in their peaceful town.

However, Lovejoy continued to speak against slavery, writing that all Christians should work for the destruction of slavery. For many months Elijah continued to write his thoughts and opinions on slavery. The Alton citizens saw Lovejoy as an abolitionist and became fearful of him transforming their town into an abolitionist center. He soon organized a meeting of a state anti-slavery society at one of the Presbyterian churches in

Alton. Discussed in the meeting were the issues of Lovejoy's editorials against slavery and the feeling of betrayal felt by the Alton citizens.

Lovejoy had pushed some people in Alton to the brink. On August 21, 1837, large crowds began to appear outside of the *Observer* office. A mob broke into the office and began tearing apart the printing press, throwing it into the Mississippi River. However, Elijah was not threatened and continued speaking and writing about his beliefs. The mob struck a second time, ruining another printing press. Lovejoy then asked his subscribers for $1500 to order a third press. The money came, and he ordered another press. But violence and damage continued, causing Elijah to order four new presses.

Soon after, Lovejoy traveled to Jacksonville to visit his friend, the president of Illinois College. They decided on August 15, 1837 that an anti-slavery convention would be held on October 26 in Alton.

When another meeting was held in November 1837 in Alton, the citizens proposed the idea of Lovejoy and the *Observer* leaving Alton. Knowing that the people wanted him gone, Elijah responded by saying "Sir, I dare not flee away from Alton." Most people knew that Lovejoy would not leave their town easily. That evening a large brick flew through Lovejoy's window, barely missing him.

On Tuesday November 7, 1837, the new printing press arrived and was placed in the office. After hearing of the arrival of the press, the citizens prepared to take action. That evening the men of Alton threatened to burn his office if Lovejoy did not give up the press. The mob threw stones, shot pistols, and climbed a ladder to set the roof on fire. Lovejoy and one of his followers took the chance of pushing over the ladder. As the ladder was being pushed, shots were fired and Lovejoy was hit and killed.

Elijah was hit trying to save his press. He was buried a day later on his thirty-fifth birthday. [From *Alton Observer*. Nov. 7, 1837, <http://www.altonweb.com/history/lovejoy/aol.html> (Dec. 1, 2004); "African American Registry," <http://www.aaregistry.com/african_american_history/1471/Elijah_Lovejoy_abolitionist_publisher> (Dec. 13, 2004); Allan Carpenter, *Illinois Land of Lincoln*. Chicago, IL: Regensteiner Publishing Enterprises Inc., 1968; Kiara Hickman, "Elijah Parish Lovejoy," <http://pphsp.uis.edu/elijah_parish_lovejoy.htm> (Dec. 2, 2004). John Simkin, "Elijah Lovejoy," <http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk./USASlovejoy.htm> (Dec. 15, 2004); Paul Simon, *Freedom's Champion, Elijah Lovejoy*.]

Ethel L. Payne

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Known as the "First Lady of the Black Press," Ethel L. Payne was a pioneer for African Americans and for women as the first female journalist for *The Chicago Defender*. Payne expressed her views and fought with fervor for civil rights in her articles for 27 years. A civil rights campaign was at the top of her list, and nothing was going to stand in her way. She traveled to the corners of the world to spread the word about what was going on in the world concerning civil rights. Who would have thought this Chicago native would grow up to be a fiery freedom fighter?

In Chicago, Illinois, August 14, 1911, Ethyl Payne was born. She had a passion for justice from her birth. Payne originally wanted to be a lawyer, but later changed her mind after discovering a hidden talent for writing while attending Lindblom High School. She later attended Crane Jr. College and the Medill School of Journalism. The story of how her career began is quite interesting. While working as a hostess in an Army Special Services Club in Japan, she allowed a visiting reporter form *The Defender* to read her work. The reporter liked what he saw and took the work back with him to Chicago and began using her journal entries as topics for cover stories.

Payne went to work full time with *The Defender* starting in 1951, writing with a passion for desegregation and toleration for African Americans. After working in Chicago for two years, she then took over the Washington D.C. department of *The Defender*. Payne's brag sheet would include interviewing leaders of the Civil Rights

movement, as well as covering numerous Civil Rights marches, the Montgomery Bus Boycott of 1956, desegregation attempts in 1957 at Little Rock High School, and the March on Washington in 1967. Payne even accompanied Vice-President Nixon to independence ceremonies in Ghana. Payne seemed to also have achieved a high status among politicians and prominent figures in that she also covered seven United States presidents as a correspondent reporting from Vietnam and Africa. President Lyndon B. Johnson invited her to witness the signing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Act of 1965. In 1972, she became the first black female to be broadcast on the radio and television as a commentator for CBS. She retired in 1982. Even after getting along in years, Ethel Payne kept on fighting.

Ethel L. Payne died on May 28, 1991, of a heart attack. She was 79 years old. She was a bold woman who had a talent with words. She became a prominent figure amid the black culture and in the world of journalism as well. She traveled far and wide and rubbed elbows with the high and mighty to make sure she was heard. Payne once said, "I fought all my life to bring about change, to correct injustices and the inequalities in the system," and fight she did. [From Ebony Society of Philatelic Events and Reflections, "Ethel L. Payne," <http://www.esperstamps.org> (Jan. 18, 2005); National Association of Black Journalists, "Black Journalist Ethel Payne to be Commemorated on U.S. Postage Stamp," <http://www.members.nabj.org> ; Washington Press Club Foundation, "Ethel Payne Introduction," <www.npc.press.org> (Jan.18, 2005); Women in Journalism, "Ethel L. Payne-First Lady of Black Press," <http://mutirace,org> (Jan.18, 2005).]

Elijah Lovejoy: "The Martyr Abolitionist"

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Communication has been vital in many issues in history, no more so than in the abolition of slavery. Abolitionists and free slaves wrote books and narratives to communicate to the world the pain and suffering of the common slave. Anti-slavery reformers sent many letters, like those between Frederick Douglass and Harriet Beecher Stowe. But perhaps most influential of all was the newspaper. Journalists around the country got the word out through opinion-bases essays and records of inspiring speeches. Newspapers were cheap and available to everyone. They were the best way to spread ideas to the masses. One of the most effective journalists was Elijah Lovejoy, who used his influence to spread abolitionism. The Reverend Edward Beecher, himself an abolitionist, called him "the first martyr in America to the great principles of the freedom of speech and of the press." Although Lovejoy rose into the ranks of martyrdom, he came from humble beginnings.

Lovejoy began his journalistic career in St. Louis, where he served as an editor of *The St. Louis Times* and *The St. Louis Observer*. He fled the city, spurred by a mob angered by a controversial, anti-slavery account of the lynching of a slave named McIntosh, killed for the murder of his abusive master. Lovejoy fled to Alton, Illinois, which is where his most important work was done. He was a preacher and was beginning to feel that he would not be honoring God if he sat idly and let this issue pass him by. In a letter to his brother Joseph, he displayed his faith in God to bring justice to the slaves:

"The Lord will overrule it [slavery] for the good of black and white, and His own glory." He was inspired, both in mind and spirit, to right wrongs and invested great hope in the judgment of the people that they would be provoked by the Abolitionist movement to finally see the evils of slavery. Lovejoy helped to create the State Anti-Slavery Society of Illinois, which had to meet twice before it was officially formed. He contacted every abolitionist he knew and wrote a friend, "We don't want the movement to be confined to any denomination."

He faced much opposition, which U. F. Linder, Attorney General of Illinois asserted, and Reverend John Hogan, whose main purpose was to stir up a destructive mob. They accused him of damaging the good reputation of Alton and of opposing the city as well as slavery. Lovejoy defended himself eloquently, asking, "What infraction of the law have I been guilty of? When and where have I published anything injurious to the reputation of Alton? . . . Why am I waylaid from day to day . . . and my life put in jeopardy every hour?" He ended his speech by bursting into tears after speaking in defense of his family, who had been harassed for their association with Lovejoy. He could not leave Alton; he had become bound by duty, both personal and religious. "Should I attempt it I should feel that the angel of the Lord with his flaming sword was pursuing me wherever I went . . . I here pledge myself to continue it, if need be till death," he said, then walked back to his seat, only to watch as Hogan, "contended that it was the duty of Mr. Lovejoy . . . to abstain from the exercise of some of his abstract rights under existing circumstances." This story is only one example of Lovejoy's perseverance in the face of danger.

Another was the immense courage he summoned to be able to publish strong abolitionist sentiments in his newspaper in the midst of adamant pro-slavery activists. For instance, in an editorial dated July 6, 1837, just a few months before his death and a few days after the nation's birthday, he wrote, "The voice of three million slaves call upon you to come and unloose the heavy burdens, and let the oppressed go free." Through such heart-felt pleas, he moved many to support the abolitionist movement, and stirred many emotions within his readers. Not only was Lovejoy creating a buzz in the pro-slavery camp, but many anti-slavery activists were listening as well. He also inspired many. Although Lovejoy had a positive affect on many, his views became stronger by the minute and caused even stronger negative reactions. His printing press for *The Alton Observer* was destroyed four times, the last on the night of November 7, 1837. Two men, Edward Keating and Henry W. West, were let into the building that housed the new press by a guard. They were allowed to see a Mr. Gilman, who was the owner of the warehouse, and demanded the press be surrendered to the gathering crowd of drunks or the building would be burned. The guards decided that the building and the press would be defended. However, the rambunctious crowd was too angry and too full of alcohol to want to go without a fight. A fight ensued and, as Lovejoy himself ran out to the front of the building to defend the press that had created his career and voiced his passion, he was shot five times. He was buried two days later and his murderer was never convicted.

Elijah Lovejoy made the greatest sacrifice for his cause, his life. His spirit survived, however. Many people rushed to join anti-slavery societies, and a young Abraham Lincoln spoke out against the crime. Lovejoy's legacy lives on today. The Elijah Lovejoy Award is given annually to a journalist who shows exceptional talent and fearlessness. The Lovejoy Monument was dedicated on November 9, 1897 in Alton and stands as one of the largest columns in the country. It is a fitting tribute to the man known as "the martyr abolitionist." [From Anonymous, "Editorial," *The Alton Daily Telegraph*, July 26 1897; *The Alton Daily Observer*, Jan. 21, 1836; Elijah Lovejoy letter to Joseph Lovejoy, Nov. 21, 1834 <http: www.state.il.us/hpa/lovjoy/letter4t.htm> (Oct. 23, 2004); Elijah Lovejoy, "Editorial on Slavery," July 6, 1837 <http:www.state.il.us/hpa/lovejoy/letter9t.htm> (Oct. 23, 2004); "Biography of Elijah Lovejoy," <http: www.state.il.us/hpa/lovejoy/bio.htm> (Oct. 23, 2004); "The Lovejoy Monument," <http://state.il.us/hpa/lovejoy/monument.htm> (Oct. 23, 2004); and W. T. Norton, *Centennial History of Madison County, Illinois and Its People, 1812-1912*.]

The Right Angle or Degree of Bias?

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Should you trust the media to report the news accurately? Do you think that they are impartial in their coverage of events? Today, the media is often accused of being biased in its reporting. For an example, "Al-Jazeera" reports on Middle East events and is charged with being prejudiced against the United States, portraying American soldiers in Iraq as villains. In contrast, "Fox News" is accused of being biased toward the Allied occupation in Iraq, portraying the soldiers as heroes. Even long ago, however, bias existed in the media. On November 13, 1909, in the small town of Cherry, Illinois, there was a fire in the local coal mine. The tragedy instantly became headlines around the country. Comparing the coverage of this event by three Midwest newspapers--The *Chicago Tribune* and two labor papers, *The Union Leader* and *the Socialist Democratic Herald*—shows that the reporting was shaped by the political beliefs and goals of each newspaper's owner.

On November 13, 1909, in a coal mine in Cherry, Illinois, a kerosene torch set fire to a cart full of hay. The fire quickly spread throughout the mine. In the first hours, many miners died and few escaped. A group of approximately eighty miners was trapped in a small area deep within the mine for eight days before being rescued by a search party. In all, 259 men and boys were killed. This mine accident remains the third deadliest in United States history.

The *Chicago Tribune* was the premier newspaper in the Midwest. Its owners were known to have a conservative views on political issues and were strongly anti-union. This

was typical of large city newspapers at the time, as progressive views received little support in the mainstream media. This bias appears subtly in coverage of the Cherry Mine disaster. The *Tribune* emphasized the people who died and the heroes who tried to save the trapped miners. The focus was on just this incident, and not on any other mine accidents. *The Union Leader*, on the other hand, was a labor newspaper in Chicago at this time. It was owned by a pro-labor group, whose purpose was to increase union membership and improve labor's working conditions. It was hostile toward the mine companies. The paper was a weekly publication; hence by the time the first edition came out after the disaster, the main details of the story were widely known. Therefore, the paper did not have to provide basic information about the incident. The paper used the incident to rant about the dangerous working conditions of all laborers, not just miners. Very little of the story was devoted to the actual mine disaster. There was nothing about heroics or the rescue, only the deaths of the miners and the children orphaned or women widowed by the disaster. *The Social Democractic Herald* was another labor paper, started by a founder of the United States Social Party. This paper framed the story as a typical incident of a company killing its workers to save money. It emphasized the gruesome deaths of the miners, even giving a fictional sketch of what it was like for the miners trapped in the mine. The mine owner was portrayed as being concerned only with how much money it would cost to reopen the mine.

Who was really at the fault for the fire? A state investigation into the incident does not assign blame to anyone. The responsibility according to the newspapers, however, lies with different parties. The *Tribune* did not say the company was to blame, but rather an individual. It was claimed in the paper that "some individual or individuals .

. . were negligent." It speculated that a mine official might be at fault, but it also said that he most likely died trying to rescue his workers. This puts a good face on the company while shifting the blame away from it. The *Tribune* did not criticize the company at all in its coverage. Furthermore, the paper said, "the equipment of the Cherry Mine was supposed to be the equal or superior of that of any other mine in the state." The *Tribune* also described all the achievements of the mine in the past. The implication is that this was a safe mine.

The Union Leader implied that companies are always to blame in such incidents. It portrayed the mine company owners as heartless people who were more concerned about money than the lives of their workers. *The Herald* headlines shows its prejudice: "Miners Die Horribly from Capitalist Greed." *The Herald* also reported the mine to be a "death trap," having open torches because the people in charge refused to repair the electrical system. Rather than giving credit to the company for pouring water down the mine shaft to put out the fire, the paper censured the company for drowning the workers trapped underground. It also chastised the company for sealing the mine to prevent further damage.

The *Tribune* was concerned with selling newspapers, and it tended to emphasize the gripping stories of heroes and tragedy. It was not going to report anything that was pro-labor. Therefore, it put its own spin on the story, which is that Cherry Mine disaster was a rare event. The two labor papers were weekly papers whose purpose was to help workers. They did not report the major details of the story, but instead accentuated information that made the company look bad as well as the larger problem of people being injured in the industry. [From The *Chicago Tribune*, Nov. 13, and Nov. 23, 1909;

Illinois Bureau of Labor Statistics, Report on the Cherry Mine Disaster; Robert McChesney, e-mail to Student Historian, Jan. 6, 2005; Robert McChesney and Ben Scott, "Introduction," in Upton Sinclair, *The Brass Check: A Study of American Journalism*; *The Social Democratic Herald*, Nov. 20 1909; *The Social Democratic Herald*, Nov. 20, 1909; and Karen Tintori, *Trapped; The 1909 Cherry Mine Disaster*.]

Catching the Culprits: The Horrifying Murder of Bobby Franks

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The newspapers stands were swarming with people, and the papers were selling like crazy. The headlines read "How Franks Boy Was Killed Is Told." It was three months since the tragic event, but it was still all anyone could talk about. Everyone in Chicago wanted to know who murdered Bobby Franks. Who unraveled this horrifying crime? In 1924, all of Chicago watched in shock as the *Chicago Daily News* helped solve the case of Leopold and Loeb, one of Illinois' biggest murder trials that dominated the front page of Chicago's local newspapers and is still mystifying.

Ever since the case entered public awareness, it was surrounded by mass media. During that time, the *Chicago Daily News* was a popular newspaper and a competitor of the *Chicago Tribune*. But only the *Daily News* covered an especially wide variety of writing that attracted a range of readers. The *Daily News* was significantly involved in the case of Leopold and Loeb, making connections between the dead body and the Franks kidnapping before Leopold or Loeb knew their plan was slowly unraveling. Furthermore, it had significant information far ahead of other newspapers. Big events like this were crucial to the smooth operation of the paper because Chicagoans were thirsting for new information on the case, and this increased the newspaper's profits.

The case dominated the front page of the *Daily News* for four months, featuring various articles about the case, including all the details. The paper also was interactive, incorporating quizzes for readers to compare themselves to Leopold's extremely high intelligence level and polls where people could voice their opinions. Phrenologists made

photographic analyses of the murders, and there were pictures from the trial and of the boys in prison clothes. Horrifying headlines screamed to the readers from the stands: "How Franks Boys Was Killed Is Told!" and "Leopold's Typewriter a Franks Clew." The *Daily News* had a massive impact on the public's opinion, changing Leopold's reputation from "cold scientific monster" to a clumsy object of ridicule. Moreover, it made the boys seem more normal than the people thought, introducing the new psychological concepts "normal" and "abnormal." No longer were they immortal masterminds, but just two irresponsible boys unfortunately guilty of a crime. Still today, people debate why the two young men committed this crime. The press interviewed Mrs. Franks while she was still in shock, and talked to Mr. Franks, who would do anything to get his son back. The *Daily News* featured a story on Leopold's father, who was shocked at the gruesome crime his son had committed. Reporters discussed the wealth of families of the guilty boys, and how it might save their lives. Throughout, the *Daily News* provided an accurate account of the case and provided the prosecuting attorney with useful information. In the end, the paper's message to the people of Chicago shifted from "children as victims" to "children as possible criminals." Not only did people have to watch out for the safety of their children, but they also needed to raise their children as safe people.

Who were the two masterminds behind solving this case? James Mulroy and Alvin Goldstein of the *Chicago Daily News* were only "cub" reporters--young and inexperienced--yet were the two who saved Mr. Franks thousand of dollars and helped catch the culprits. The two hunted down information all hours of the day, rotating shifts and taking turns eating and sleeping so that one of them was always on the case. They diligently worked night and day with no help from the police or anyone else. While "real

reporters" did not have time to look under the surface, Mulroy and Goldstein picked up clues that no one else would have noticed. The young reporters divided tasks; Mulroy visited the Franks family, while Goldstein observed the corpse, and later, brought Bobby's uncle to identify the body. Soon, Mulroy and Goldstein had made connections between the dead body found in the swamp and the mysterious kidnapping. The two also found typing samples from Leopold's previous school work, compared it to the ransom note, and linked the writing. Because of this, Leopold and Loeb were brought in for more questioning. Soon after, the pair ran into Loeb on the streets. They gathered this important quote from him, "If I were to kill any kid, I'd pick just such a fresh little boy as that Franks kid." After investigating, the two young reporters reported to police. Without support or encouragement, Mulroy and Goldstein helped crack the infamous case of Leopold and Loeb. In the end, their hard work rewarded them with Pulitzer Prizes and permanent professional reputations. Without them, the crime may have remained a mystery.

This murder affected the very busy city of Chicago in more ways than one might think. The Franks murder helped shape the city's identity during a time of great change. It did not improve Chicago's already bad reputation of crime, and since both killers were Jewish, the Jewish population of Chicago felt all eyes were on it. Then there was the involvement of Clarence Darrow, a world-renowned attorney, and the interest and attention of the media. The city's life was very hectic at the time, and crowds swarmed around the courthouse as reporters and photographers pushed and shoved for a better view. Maybe one of the most important ways the murder affected Chicago was the way it

educated parents. It illustrated the dangers to the children of the city, and made people realize the importance of sensible child-raising to avoid further tragedies like this.

In 1924, all of Chicago watched in shock as the *Chicago Daily News* helped solve the case of Leopold and Loeb, one of Illinois's biggest murder trials. It dominated the front page of Chicago's local newspapers. Goldstein and Mulroy are legendary for helping to solve the horrifying crime and catching the culprits. Few will ever forget the hectic four months in which the crime covered the front page.

[From Paula Fass, *Marking and Remaking and Event* <http://fsweb.berry.edu/academic/hass/csnider/berry/hon250/fass.htm> (Sept. 6, 2004); *Law Buzz*. 1999-2003. AwesomeStories.com <http://www.lawbuzz.com/famous_trials/leopold/leopold_loeb.htm> (Sept 6, 2004); Scott A. Newman, *Leopold and Loeb Articles*. (Jul. 24, 1997); *Jazz Age Chicago*. <http://chicago.urban-hsitory.org/scarpbooks/leo_loeb/ll_txt12.htm> (Sept. 6, 2004); Karen Rothmeyer, *Winning Pulitzers*.]

The Defending of a Nation: The Founding Years at the Chicago Defender

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Would you start your life over based on the urgings of a newspaper? Robert S. Abbot had this control, this influence on an entire race. "The power of the media is, and was often underestimated, but can be domineering," declared a web site about the *Chicago Defender*. Abbot took the notion that a good newspaper was one of the strongest weapons to be used in defense of a race deprived of its citizenship rights. Therefore, Abbot founded the *Chicago Defender*, the most prominent and influential black newspaper in the country. As the name implies, the paper defended an entire race from discrimination and segregation.

Publishing out of a small kitchen in his landlord's apartment, Robert S. Abbot began his journalistic enterprise in 1905 with an initial investment of twenty-five dollars and a press run of 300 copies. "The first issues of the *Defende*r were four paged, six column handbills which were filled with local news gathered by Abbot and clippings from Chicago newspapers." The papers were sold door-to-door by Abbot for twenty five cents a copy.

In 1910, Abbot hired his first employee, J. Hockley Smiley. Smiley freely borrowed journalism techniques and converted the *Chicago Defender* from a boilerplate sheet to the first modern black newspaper. He gradually incorporated yellow journalism during his five years with the paper in order to boost sales and to dramatize many racial injustices in America.

Smiley's method included extravagant headlines, dramatic articles, graphic images, militant editorials, and satirical cartoons, all of which appealed not only to well educated northern blacks but to blacks located throughout the country. The *Defender's* numbers reached 230,000 in circulation, and by World War I, two-thirds of the paper's readers were based outside of Chicago. In terms of impact on society and culture of African Americans, author Roi Ottley wrote, "The *Chicago Defender* was second to only one other piece of literature, the Bible."

By the time of Smiley's death in 1915, the *Defender* was already the largest African American paper in Chicago and was well on its way to becoming the largest African- American-owned business in the country. The paper was "audaciously proclaiming itself 'the World's Greatest Newspaper' and was becoming the first Negro newspaper in history with a mass circulation."

As a northern paper, the *Chicago Defender* had more freedom to safely report stories that southern black papers could not, for fear of white retribution and retaliation. "The *Defender* exposed the daily horrors that characterized the racist south, including police brutality, lynching, and white economic exploitation of the disfranchised black population," according to a web site on the newspaper.

Defiant statements earned the *Chicago Defender* intense loyalty among "racemen" and "racewomen," which African Americans were called in the paper. It also invoked antipathy among southern whites who sought to prohibit its distribution and sales. White distributors refused to circulate the *Defender*, and many racist groups such as the Ku Klux Klan tried to confiscate or threaten the paper's readers. The newspaper had to be smuggled across the Mason-Dixon Line. The *Defender* was read aloud in local

parks, churches, and barbershops and passed from person to person. It is estimated as its height that each paper sold was read by four or five blacks, placing the newspaper's readership at over 500,000 each week, making it the first black newspaper with a readership over 100,000.

Abbot believed he had a duty to influence racemen to migrate North. The *Chicago Defender* published and encouraged the migration resulting in over one and half million southern blacks. "This epoch is known as the Great Migration, during which the C*hicago Defender* influenced . . . more than 110,000 southern blacks to come to the city of Chicago alone, nearly tripling the city's black population," according to one web site.

The *Chicago Defender* declared May 15, 1917, as the date of the Great Northern Drive. The paper "portrayed stark contrast between northern freedoms and southern tyranny," according to historian Allan Spear. Images of the best northern schools were shown adjacent to the worst southern schools. Articles describing the horrendous conditions of the lives of southern blacks were paired with those of comfort and luxury lifestyles in the North. The *Defender* pulled racemen north by organizing clubs that provided lower rail fares, directing new migrants to jobs, and providing housing and social services.

The *Chicago Defender* captured the transportation troubles of the black labor recruits, who were restricted to riding in coal cars, by publishing this poem, "Some are coming on passenger, some are coming on freight, others will be found walking for none have time to wait." In retaliation, white southerns told blacks they would freeze to death in the North. Responding, the *Defender* compiled a list of blacks that were found frozen

to death in the South, and asked "If you can freeze to death in the north and be free, and why freeze to death in the south and be a slave?"

"Chicago was a focal point of the great migration and of the racial violence that came in its wake," Spears wrote. The *Chicago Defender* provided fine coverage of the Red Summer Riots of 1919, a time of racism, lynchings, and chaos in cities throughout the country.

According to one reporter for the *Chicago Defender*, 38 people were killed and over 500 people, black and white, were injured. The race riots began on July 27, 1919, when a few whites began hurling rocks at some blacks on the beach. For five days white gangs beat, stabbed, and shot their victims, leaving wounds on the entire country. "Overall, in 1919, economic, political, and social tensions caused 78 lynchings across the country. The *Defender* utilized these tensions to illustrate the necessity of equal rights," it has been stated in one web site.

The *Chicago Defender* was the most successful and politically effective black newspaper ever printed. From its founding until 1925, it served as a voice for an entire race. The *Defender* stood up and demanded equality. Undeniably, the newspaper played an essential role in the history of blacks, Chicago, and of the United States. If not for this newspaper and its controversial writings, America might still be a place where segregation and discrimination were everyday occurrences. However, Robert S. Abbot had a sole purpose in founding the *Defender*, namely, to fight these injustices. Because of the *Chicago Defender* America is well on its way to becoming a country where equal rights prevail. [From *The Chicago Defender*. "Black-Press." <http://www.pbs.org/blackpress/news_bios/defender.html> (Dec. 14, 2004); *The Chicago*

Defender. “Chicago Defender.” <http://www.chicagodefender.com/history.html> (Dec. 14, 2004); *The Chicago Defender*. “The Chicago Defender, A Newspaper Ahead of Its Time.” <http://www.lib.niu.edu/ipo/ihy011217.html> (Dec. 14, 2004); Allan H. Spear, *Black Chicago*; Dempsey J. Travis, *An Autobiography of Black Chicago*; Dempsey J. Travis, *An Autobiography of Black Politics*.]

Elijah Lovejoy

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In the nineteenth century, the idea of slavery was accepted by many and rejected by few. People who rejected slavery stood out in shaping the ideas of later generations. Elijah Lovejoy was one anti-slavery man who expressed his ideas through journalism. Though his ideas were not always pleasing for the slaveholders and pro-slavery men to hear, that did not stop him from speaking his mind through his right to freedom to the press. Lovejoy said, "By the help of God, I will stand. I know I am but one and you are many . . . but I shall die at my post, for I cannot and will not forsake it." At the time, very few embraced his ideas, but he greatly affected later generations.

Lovejoy was born in Albion, Maine, in 1802. Both of his parents thought it was important for him to be well educated, especially on religion. In 1826, he moved west. He wanted to spread New England morals to a region, which, he thought, needed some religious direction. In 1832, he underwent a religious conversion and felt God's call of service to change the world. His new life consisted of delivering sermons in St. Louis and editing of the new "reform newspaper," the *Observer*. "He would dedicate his life, he resolved, to spread the word of God among these Westerners," wrote the historian Anthony John Scott. The pages of the *Observer* published ideas about Christian politics, diffusion of religious intelligence, and saving souls. The views of Lovejoy in his writings portrayed slavery as a "national sin" and a "cruel form of human oppression." Alton citizens were angry.

Slaveholders and pro-slavery men in Missouri felt threatened by Lovejoy because he was challenging the Roman Catholic Church, which was a lawful and important instition to them. The result of their growing anger Lovejoy was violence. In 1836, Lovejoy wrote about a violent mob that assaulted a free African American riverboat worker, Francis McIntosh. A mob took McIntosh to the outskirts of town, chained him to a tree, set kindling around him, and burned him to death. McIntosh cried out in agony and begged to be shot and put out of his misery, but no man performed this act of mercy.

Lovejoy grew extremely "strident against slavery" in his editorials after seeing this horrible act of violence. Southerners and slaveholders hated him because of his writings on the mob's attacks. In 1836, his press was destroyed by an angry mob. Lovejoy realized that St. Louis was not a safe place for him to live at this time; hence in 1836, he moved to Alton, Illinois to continue publishing his ideas. Most of the Alton population was not opposed to Lovejoy's arrival in Alton, as along as Altonians were sure there would not be controversy in their town, as had occurred in St. Louis. At a town meeting Lovejoy told the people of Alton that he would not publish as much about slavery, but, if he thought something needed to be said including slavery, he would write about it. The citizens of Alton felt betrayed when throughout the first year, the anti-slavery publications in the *Observer* increased. In October, a meeting was held in Alton for men with antislavery views, where Lovejoy discussed man's freedoms and liberties. This address has been "hailed as one of the most moving speeches" in America's history supporting the freedoms and rights of the Constitution. Lovejoy stated in his address, "I know that I have the right to speak and publish my sentiments . . . This right was given to me by my Maker; and it is solemnly guaranteed to me by the Constitution of the United

States and of this state. You come together for the purpose of driving out a confessedly innocent man, for no cause but that he dares to think and speak his conscience and his God distaste." Lovejoy also stated, "there is no way to escape the mob, but to abandon the path of duty; and that, God helping me, I will never do."

After hearing his address, citizens forced Lovejoy to leave Alton and cease publication of the *Observer* immediately, but he did not follow their request. On the night of November 7, 1837, Lovejoy and a few of his supporters decided instead to secretly get the fourth press that arrived by riverboat and take it to the Godfrey and Gilman warehouse to be stored and guarded. Word spread the next day about the press. An angry mob formed outside of the warehouse. It was armed with weapons and demanded the destruction of the press. When the men inside refused the mob's request, the mob acted violently. It went from simple rock throwing to setting fire to the entire warehouse. In the chaos, Lovejoy stepped out of the building and as he did, he was shot in the chest several times. He was killed almost instantly. "For a moment in 1837, Alton Illinois was the scene of a battle for freedom that was felt across the nation", according to one web site. Lovejoy was buried two days latter in a field near his home. There were few mourners in attendance, but there would be more in later generations.

Lovejoy's abolitionism and his publications of those ideas were rejected in the areas that he expressed them. Yet amidst all of the resistance, Lovejoy did not back down. "A weaker man than Lovejoy would have shut up shop and left town," according to historian Scott. He did not greatly influence the people in St. Louis and Alton at the time, but he definitely played a big part in the shaping of the minds of later generations. Thomas Dimmock stated, "But in his spirit, 'the vital spark of heavenly flame' that made

him what he was, still lives and breathes and burns—not only here among us today, but wherever his story has been told the wide world over. And so it must always be--as long as unselfish a heroic manhood is recognized and appreciated on this earth." [From Doug Dammon, "Elijah Lovejoy" (Sept. 23, 2004); Don J. Huber, *Elijah Parish Lovejoy "A Martyr on the Alter of American Liberty"*, <http://www.altonweb.com/history/lovejoy/index.html> (Dec. 14, 2004); and Anthony John Scott, *Hard Trials on My Way, Slavery, and the Struggle Against It 1800-1880*.]

Defender of Integrity: The Story of Paul Simon

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When people think of crime fighters, some conjure images of comic book characters. Others think of police officers or the FBI. Few would think of a writer. Yet, Paul Simon, as a young man, fought crime in Illinois with the written word for years and was successful in reforming the law. Because of this Simon will always be remembered not only as a political figure of both Illinois and the United States government, but as a journalist seeking to correct injustice and corruption.

In 1948, when Paul Simon was 19, he dropped out of college in Nebraska and bought the *Troy Tribune* in Troy, Illinois in Madison County. At this time, he was the youngest newspaper publisher in the country. The newspaper was published weekly and was a constant challenge for him because he was learning how to run a business for the first time. The news which was covered did not often extend beyond the small town of 1,200 in which the newspaper was based.

Simon wrote occasional editorials about world events in the hopes that his writings would be noticed by other newspapers, but he soon began focusing on the town's needs. The town had no sewer system, and Simon decided to fight for one. He wrote on the topic for over a year. Eventually, his argument progressed to front-page editorials that called for the installation of a sewer system. He berated the city council for not advancing the project. After another three months of editorials, the city residents voted to have a sewer system.

The *Troy Tribune* accomplished several other things in its early years, but these dealt mostly with small-town affairs. Larger issues had yet to arise.

Nearly a year after he came to Troy, Simon began to address the issues of illegal gambling. Throughout the town, there were punchboards, which were a type of gambling device. At this time, nearly all the states had outlawed gambling. When contacted, the sheriff's office refused to comment, and it was known that the sheriff and the state's attorney were being paid off to allow the activity to continue. Simon published an article about the punchboards and began receiving calls from people in other parts of the country with stories about gambling. He wrote open letters in the newspaper to the sheriff and state's attorney calling them to do something about the affair.

Soon after these letters were printed, the sheriff and state's attorney "announced with great fanfare that they had closed two houses of prostitution about seven miles from Troy, and had taken away their liquor licenses." Simon investigated and found the houses to still be carrying on business as usual, minus serving alcohol. He decided to pay a visit to one of the houses, after which he printed a recollection in an editorial of his personal visit and how he was offered a girl in the establishment. A few weeks later, the sheriff shut down the two businesses.

However, this was not the end of Simon's crusades. He addressed an open letter to the state's attorney asking him if realized that there was wide-open gambling in the county and if he intended to do anything about it. Nothing came of it, however, and Simon continued his articles. Later he received a letter from the executive secretary to the governor which said "the better known gambling places in your county will be closed either due to action taken by your own authorities or by some other types of action which

might have to be taken." Simon printed the letter in his newspaper and on the afternoon it came out, the first state police raid in Illinois history took place. Fifty-one officers from northern Illinois came down to Hyde Park and the 200 Club, two places known for gambling, and arrested 54 men.

After this raid, gambling continued, though on a smaller scale. Simon wrote to the Illinois Bar Association to request that the state's attorney be disbarred. The *St. Louis Post Dispatch*, along with other newspapers in the area, also urged the Illinois Bar Association to act. Once it was clear that the Bar Association took the charges seriously, "Madison County became cleanest county in the state, and it has never since reverted fully to its former status."

When an illegal gambling house sprang up in Madison County, Simon notified the new state's attorney. The latter took his new job seriously, and Simon saw the gambling house close.

In 1958, a mobster muscled his way into a monopoly on cigarette vending machines at the Fairmount Race Track. Simon editorialized against it and effected a change.

Simon eventually bought out fifteen other small town newspapers, which he ran until he sold the entire organization. He continued to fight for what he saw as right. He used the power of the press to make improvements; however, he soon realized he could do more by entering politics. He campaigned and was elected to the Illinois House of Representatives and served from 1955 to 1963. From there, he went on to serve in the Illinois State Senate, as Illinois Lieutenant Governor, and the United States Senator. He made a bid for the Democratic Party nomination for president in the 1988 election. Even

though this failed, he was respected and honored by members of both parties. Simon continued to write about what he saw as wrong his entire life, and he wrote a total of 22 books. One book which he wrote dealt with the biography of Elijah Lovejoy, a newspaper editor who led a campaign against slavery in Madison County in 1830s and was killed for speaking his views.

Paul Simon will be remembered as many things, including a crime fighter. He did what he felt was right and fought to correct injustices. His campaign against corruption shows the true power of journalism in the hands of a determined individual. [From *Belleville New Democrat*, (Jan. 23, 2005); "Biography of Paul Simon." *Paul Douglas Ethics in Government*. <http://www.igpa.uillinois.edu/ethics/simon-bio.htm>. (Dec. 13, 2004); Ryan Keith, "Former two-term Sen. Paul Simon of Illinois dies at 75; day after undergoing heart surgery." SFGate.com (Dec. 19, 2004); Paul Simon, *The Autobiography of Paul Simon*.]

Joseph Medill and His Positive Role in Illinois History

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Throughout history, the state of Illinois has produced many admirable men and women who have made a difference in Illinois and the nation. Examples of these men and women are Abraham Lincoln, Ulysses S. Grant, Jane Adams, Susan B. Anthony, and Ronald Reagan. One man who may not be as well known as the previously named individuals but that certainly made a mark in Illinois history was Joseph Medill. A man of courage and conviction, Medill was instrumental concerning many issues. One way in which Medill was important to Illinois was his work involving the rejuvenation of the ailing *Chicago Tribune* in 1855. In addition to this, Medill and his work as editor for the *Tribune* contributed in many important ways to the successful campaign and presidential election of Abraham Lincoln. In 1871, after writing an encouraging editorial directed to Chicagoans after the Great Chicago Fire, Medill was elected mayor of the city of Chicago, only one month after the fire devastated the city. During his time in office, Medill used the power he held in a sagacious, practical way, and positively affected the city.

It is surprising to note that although Joseph Medill certainly spoke patriotically through his *Tribune*, he was born near St. John, New Brunswick, Canada, on April 6, 1823. Medill lived there until 1832, when he moved to Massillon, Ohio, with his family. There, Medill learned responsibility by helping take care of his five younger siblings, as well as raising crops on the family farm. While performing these duties at home, Medill found opportunities for his education. He obtained it through formal schooling, as well as

through reading materials such as Shakespeare, Milton, Dickens, and Horace Greeley's *New York Tribune*. Interestingly enough, Medill was later employed under Greeley in Cleveland during his early career.

Medill's first tried teaching as a career to earn money for his family after his family's house burned down. Dissatisfied with this, Medill later entered into a law partnership. However, Medill became dissatisfied with this position as well and moved on to journalism. Between 1849 to 1855, Medill tried various newspapers ventures, achieving some success. He also earned fame by coining the term "Republican" for the political party associated with the name.

It was not until 1855, however, that Medill met with real success with his newspaper ventures. Encouraged by Horace Greeley, Medill bought the *Chicago Tribune*. During his years as editor of the *Tribune*, Medill brought major changes to the then struggling newspaper and helped it become one of the strongest journalistic voices in Illinois. According to the Northwestern Medill School of Journalism, "he was to be the brain and sinews of the *Tribune* . . . it was he who gave the paper impetus and direction. It was he who made it an institution and by it alone, save for periods of brief official service, his sound ideals of citizenship found expression and realization." Under Medill's leadership, the *Tribune* became more widely read, and the daily circulation of the periodical tripled. Undoubtedly, the prosperity of the *Chicago Tribune* is indebted to the untiring work of Joseph Medill.

As stated, under Medill's leadership, the *Tribune* represented Republican views and sentiments. It also supported a rising Republican figure in Illinois -- Abraham Lincoln. In the spring of 1855, Lincoln personally met with Medill in the *Tribune* offices

at Chicago. After that, an alliance was forged between Lincoln and the *Chicago Tribune*. As Medill was a devout Republican, he supported Lincoln and publicized him through editorials. In 1858, an election year for the United States Senate, the *Tribune* challenged Senator Stephen A. Douglas to a series of debates with Lincoln, a candidate for the United States Senate. This challenge can be found in the July 22, 1858 editorial, entitled "A Question of Taste," which states: "Let Mr. Douglas and Mr. Lincoln agree to canvass the State together, in the usual western style . . . If Mr. Douglas shall refuse to be a party to such an arrangement, and it will be because he is a coward." Although Lincoln lost the election for Senator, this editorial, along with three subsequent editorials, reveled Douglas' weaknesses. These editorials helped boost Lincoln's popularity and increase the *Tribune*'s profits.

In 1866, shortly after President Lincoln was assassinated, Medill left the *Tribune*, feeling that there was not any more "purposeful activity" for him. Six years later, in 1871, Medill returned to Chicago, only to be faced with the city's greatest tragedy -- the Great Chicago Fire. Through all the turmoil, Medill extinguished fires on the *Tribune* buildings roof, ordered journalists to chronicle the disaster, and managed to print a newspaper three days after the destruction of the city. In what has been deemed his greatest editorial, Medill wrote the following in the Wednesday, October 11, 1871 issue of the *Tribune*: "In the midst of a calamity without parallel in the world's history . . . the people of this once beautiful city have resolved that CHICAGO SHALL RISE AGAIN."

Due to Medill's encouragement of the shocked Chicago inhabitants and his optimism, Medill was nominated and elected mayor of Chicago. In his inaugural address, Medill proclaimed a message of hope, stating that "Chicago will rise up like a phoenix

from the ashes." Medill effected many changes to the city, including a new building code, in which every building in the city was to be constructed of brick. Medill also reformed the fire and police departments of the city, which he believed were inadequately manned, contributing to the rapid speed of the fire.

As one many well conclude, Joseph Medill was a most important figure in Illinois history. Beginning in 1855, Medill was a vital source of energy and creativity to the *Chicago Tribune*, which was infused with a bold Republican voice. Through his work with the *Tribune*, Medill influenced Illinois' attitude towards Abraham Lincoln and convinced the majority of Illinois to support him. Years later, Medill was elected mayor of the city of Chicago. Shining in this capacity, Medill became a strong, guiding force for Chicago and helped it rebuild after experiencing devastation. Indeed, it takes a man of extraordinary courage, intellect, boldness, and vitality to match Medill's many achievements and he, therefore, deserves to be remembered. [From *A Century of Tribune Editorials;* Northwestern Medill School of Journalism <http://www.medill.northwestern.edu/whois/.html> (Sept. 14, 2004); Richard Norton Smith, *The Colonel*; Stevenson Swanson, ed. *Chicago Days*.]

Peoria's Economy and the Newspaper that Shaped It

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As Napoleon Bonaparte said, "Four hostile newspapers are to be feared more than a thousand bayonets." It is underestimated what four newspapers can do. The tri-county area around Peoria has several newspapers, such as the *Pekin Daily Times*, but the *Journal Star* is Peoria's only daily newspaper. Four newspapers, the *Peoria Journal*, *Herald*, *Star* and *Transcript*, all merged into the *Journal Star*, serving 115,000 people. However, before 1834, with no papers published in Peoria, the village had 500 inhabitants and was a trading center for the region. The city of Peoria and its economy developed as their newspaper industry evolved; as a result, more publishers spend their capital for a successful newspaper.

Henry Pindell and Andrew Bell founded the *Peoria Herald* shortly after Pindell moved to Peoria in 1889. Previously, Pindell worked on the *Chicago Tribune* and the *Springfield Register*. Pindell had also been the editor and chief of the *Wabash Times*. Soon after founding it, Pindell became the lone publisher and owner of the *Peoria Herald*. A year after the *Peoria Star* formed, Pindell bought the *Transcript* and consolidated it with his *Herald*, into the *Herald-Transcript*. The success of the *Peoria Journal*, *Herald*, and *Transcript* was largely due to Pindell's influence with the newspapers. In 1904, Pindell sold the *Herald-Transcript* to a non-local syndicate. The syndicate was Francis Sission of New York City and Charles May of Galesburg. However, Pindell repurchased the *Herald-Transcript* in 1916. Pindell and Eugene Baldwin, founder of the *Journal* and the *Star*, were rivals. Even their approach to

journalism differed. Pindell encouraged writers to work to their full potential. Baldwin was a very skilled writer who knew what readers wanted to read. Their papers also competed, especially in politics. For instance, Pindell and his paper were Democratic, while Baldwin and his newspaper was Republican. The *Journal* was founded after N.C. Nasan and William Rousenville founded the *Peoria Transcript*. Nasan depicted himself as a "practical printer" and a Universalist minister. *Transcript* publication dates go back to 1855, the oldest *Journal Star* ancestor. Although the *Transcript* is the oldest, during the forty years of its publication it traded hands nine times.

J. Barnes and Baldwin established the *Peoria Journal*; publications dates go to December 3, 1877. The *Journal* was printed in the Grand Opera House until destroyed by a fire in 1909. When Baldwin decided to leave the *Journal,* he sold it to Henry Pindell, former city treasurer of Springfield, Illinois, and founder of the *Herald*. In 1916, Pindell began to publish the *Journal* in the afternoon and the *Transcript* in the morning. Later, Baldwin returned to Peoria to found the *Peoria Star* with Charles Powell in 1897. The *Star* was the second evening paper and was independent in politics, unlike many at the time. Also unusual, the *Star* was published everyday, including Sundays. Early in its career, the *Star* was one of the most circulated newspapers outside of Chicago. Baldwin was to his death the manger/editor of the *Peoria Star*. Baldwin died on November 14, 1914. Then the *Journal* and the *Transcript* took over most of the limelight, which merged into the *Journal-Transcript*. It was favored because of the two editions a day, which advertisers took advantage of. In 1924 Henry Pindell died, leaving his son-in-law Carl Slane with the *Peoria Journal Transcript*.

The rise in the price of newsprint and ink in World War II caused difficulties for newspapers. This was unfortunate for *The Star* because it had prior financial trouble. The *Journal Transcript* had plenty of paper in storage; however, it did not have enough presses. The *Star* and *Journal* were still rivals, but both were hurting. Prices began to increase as sales decreased. A somewhat successful solution was the creation of *Peoria's Newspapers*, Inc. Founded in 1944, it handled the business affairs of the newspapers, including the advertising, circulation and production matters. During the ten years of P.N. Inc., the *Star* became the morning paper and the *Journal-Transcript* an afternoon paper. The two remained competitive and separate. But, *Peoria Newspapers*, Inc. could not succeed for long. To keep pace with growing community, new investments and a single owner was needed. In 1954 the two newspapers merged into the *Peoria Journal Star*, Inc.

Henry Slane was the grandson of newspaper industrialist Henry Pindell and the son of Carl Slane. He was chairman of the board and chief executive of the *Peoria Journal Star* after his father. In 1955, 100 years after the founding of *Peoria Transcript*, the *Peoria Journal Star* moved into its current headquarters, near the McCluggage Bridge. The first edition was printed there on November 14, 1955. In 1958, the *Journal Star* suffered through a two-week strike, almost shutting the paper down. In 1922, the *Journal Star* became a morning newspaper. The paper has also been put up for sale; the employee ownership program initiated by H.P. Slane failed, causing financial trouble. It was then put on the market. *Copley Press*, Inc. purchased the *Peoria Journal Star* for $174.4 million in 1996. The purchase ended thirteen years of employee ownership and 141 years of local ownership.

In conclusion, the city of Peoria and its economy grew and developed as their newspaper industry evolved; more publishers spent their capital for a successful newspaper. The *Journal Star* has a great impact on the tri-county area; it is the only daily newspaper within the region. But before Peoria's first newspaper, Peoria was a small village of about 500, as of yet unfazed by modern newspaper industries like the Peoria *Journal Star* and its patrons, the *Peoria Herald*, *Transcript*, *Journal* and *Star*. Napoleon did, indeed, appreciate how important newspapers could be. [From History of Illinois Press Association, *Illinois Newspapers*; *the Journal Star*, Sept. 23, 1991 and Aug. 1, 1999; Jerry Klein, *Peoria*!; and Odillon B. Slane, *Reminiscences of Early Peoria*.]

The Newspaper Coverage of the Great Chicago Fire

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The Chicago fire was a devastating event in Illinois history. According to a web site on the *Chicago Tribune*,

> "The coverage of the fire in the media was the most important influence on how it was remembered, since this was by far the major means through which everyone, including Chicagoans, received most of their information about what had happened. Reporters, writers, illustrators, photographers, editors, and publishers decided for the waiting world which aspects of the fire should be discussed, where the emphases should go, and how issues should be framed."

The *Tribune* was one of the few newspapers to have captured that moment in history and still have many stories to tell. It helped keep Chicagoans together in a time filled with despair and encouraged them to work and to rebuild the city. Chicago had been through a lot but the newspapers did play a big part in rebuilding Chicago after the Fire. The newspaper also helped by telling what things could be learned after the Fire and how to prevent it from happening again.

The Great Chicago Fire occurred on October 8, 1871. Before that the *Chicago Tribune* warned of danger in the city, in the month right before the Great Fire. Troy Taylor wrote in the "Ghosts of the Prairie" web site that the *Chicago Tribune* had remarked on the shabby construction of the buildings downtown . . . "If the city didn't fall down it was liable to burn." The *Tribune* staff spotted the danger in the buildings of Chicago and tried to prevent the tragedy that destroyed their city. The *Chicago Tribune* was but one of those who urged the Common Council to expand the level of fire protection in order to avoid a possible disaster. On the very day just before the great fire,

the *Chicago Tribune* printed an alert, which regrettably did not receive much attention. "Chicago is a city of everlasting pine, shingles, shams, veneers, stucco, and putty," warned the *Tribune*. Another statement was made by the *Chicago Daily Tribune* on October 9, 1872: "In a city where time was everything, and durability was not a matter much considered, street after street was lined with wooden buildings, not with oaken beams and floorings, but an aggregation of flimsy constructed and inflammable pine."

"On October 8, 1871, four decades after its founding, Chicago's destiny was rewritten with a pen of a fire," in the words of Ross Miller. It all started in Mrs. O' Leary's barn on the west side of town. The fire quickly spread across Chicago, first, traveling through the shanties, sheds, and other buildings that were closely located by Mrs. O'Leary cottage, on Dekoven Street. The fire moved towards the northeast. At 11:30, burning debris made its way across the Chicago River and burned down what was said to be the finest horse stable in the country, completed at the cost of eighty thousand dollars. It was scheduled to be in business on October 11. Some gas tanks exploded as well. This continued spreading the fire. The wind also played a big part in the Great Chicago Fire. Street after street gave way, and family after family was driven out of its home, in an attempt to keep the families alive. The fire department was powerless and could not attempt to prevent the spreading of the fire.

The event is remembered in poetry. "One dark night, when people were in bed, Old Mrs. 'Leary lit a lantern in her shed. The cow kicked it over, and winked his eye, and said 'There'll be a hot time in the old town tonight.' The Great Chicago Fire originated in the O'Leary barn. This happened when the kerosene lamp Mrs. O'Leary lit was knocked

over by her cow while she was milking it. The lamp quickly ignited and the barn was soon gone.

An excerpt from the *Chicago Tribune* headline on October 11, 1871 stated: "Fire! Destruction of Chicago! 2,600 acres of buildings destroyed, eight thousand people burned out, all of the hotels, banks, public buildings, and Great Business blocks swept away, over a hundred dead bodies recovered from the debris, ten thousands of citizens without home, food, fuel or clothing." The *Tribune* staff worked throughout the fire to have a full report in the morning paper, but there was not enough water to run the presses, and then the fireproof building burned. Within two days, one of the few remaining printing presses in Chicago was purchased. When the *Tribune* finally appeared it gave information on the fire and free advertisements for people searching for family members and possessions. The *Tribune* continued its efforts, bringing the citizens together to rebuild the city and help those ravaged by their losses. Through everything the *Chicago Tribune* influenced practical attitudes all over the city.

In the end, the newspapers played a significant role in the Great Chicago Fire. From before the Fire to rebuilding Chicago, newspapers like the *Tribune* really did a lot for Chicago and its people. Chicago rose again, and the *Chicago Tribune* did as well. The *Tribune* had informed Chicagoans of the threat in their city. During the fire the *Tribune* staff worked through the fire in an effort to bring the information to the people. Yet they did not succeed, and lost their building, but the *Tribune* was the first newspaper in Chicago to regain its strength and inform the citizens about details of the Fire and the whereabouts of family members.

The newspapers like the *Tribune* all contributed during this event in Illinois history. In the words of a website on the newspaper coverage, "the newspaper helped an audience seeking to comprehend this incomprehensible event, and through it the elusive and contradictory nature of the urban culture they were all creating together." [From Richard F. Bales, *The Great Chicago Fire and the Myth of Mrs. O'Leary's Cow*; The Great Chicago Fire, "Great Chicago Fire of 1871," <http://chicago.about.com/cs/history/a/01_history_fire.htm> (Dec. 2, 2004); Herman Kogan and Robert Cromie, *The Great Fire Chicago 1871*.; Ross Miller, *The Great Chicago Fi*re; The newspaper coverage of the Great Chicago Fire, "The Chicago Tribune's Coverage of the Great Conflagration," <http://www.lib.nie.edu/ipo/ihy011213.html> (Dec. 2, 2004); The newspaper coverage of the Great Chicago Fire, "Media Event," <http://www.chicagohs.org/fire/media> (Dec. 2, 2004).]